

MINUTES

JOINT CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

February 25, 2016

Members present: Tamson Ely, Jonathan McCabe, Katherine Appy, Steve Braun, Connie Kruger, Doug Slaughter. Staff present, Sonia Aldrich, Comptroller, Claire McGinnis Treasurer/Collector.

The meeting was called to order in the Town Room, Town Hall at 9:34 a.m. by Chair, Doug Slaughter.

Police Chief Scott Livingstone introduced the Amherst Police Department budget requests starting with the replacement of 4 vehicles in keeping with a replacement schedule of every 4 years for each vehicle. He explained that prisoner transport vehicles are more expensive. They use an old ambulance and an old van for crime scene investigations. There was a radio request for mobile units. Two years ago all the radio units outside the APD building were replaced and all interior police radios were replaced last year. Captain Christopher Pronovost was also there from APD.

The minutes of Oct. 8, 2015, were moved for approval by K. Appy, the motion seconded by Jonathan McCabe and approved unanimously 6-0.

The minutes of February 4, 2016, were moved for approval by S. Braun, the motion was seconded by J. McCabe, and approved unanimously 5-0-1, K. Appy abstained.

The minutes of February 11, 2016, were moved for approval by K. Appy, the motion was seconded by J. McCabe, and approved unanimously 5-0-1, Steve Braun abstained.

D. Slaughter reported that the CPAC Chair, Mary Streeter, had contacted him about a funding matter that might come to JCPC. He had not yet gotten back to her.

J. McCabe asked if the phasing in of the police radios would make things incompatible?

C. Kruger asked if considering the overall number of vehicles in town ownership would it make sense to have a fleet plan or consultant help to look at the whole picture?

J. McCabe asked if there might be more central purchasing opportunities? C. McGinnis replied that vehicles were all purchased through the state bid list.

S. Aldrich suggested that in matters relating to the CPAC it would be helpful if the Select Board member on the JCPC could also be the liaison to the CPAC because both are dealing with capital.

The Fire Department was represented by Chief Tim Nelson, Assistant Chief Lindsey Stromgren, and Assistant Chief Donald McKay.

Chief Nelson explained that the green items on the spreadsheet were paid from the ambulance fund, and that the original narrative distributed for the radios was incorrect and a new sheet was passed out today. The radios being requested are "mobile" not "portable". AFD was requesting replacement of a 9 year old ambulance. The regular replacement cycle is 5-6 years. The regular replacement schedule had been every 2 years but with increased call volume that may be shortened to 18 months. The last new ambulance was placed in service in 2015 and this would be the same model. D. Slaughter said an 18 month replacement schedule would play out as 1-1-0 vehicles per year over a 12 year cycle.

C. McGinnis said the current revenues available in the ambulance fund would not support an 18 month replacement schedule.

J. McCabe asked if the increased call volume was due to UMass. Chief Nelson responded that it was UMass but an aging population, and that AFD serves 5 towns.

T. Ely asked what the annual ambulance receipts were? C. McGinnis said about 2 million was received from patient billing.

A chart was shown electronically that displayed the calls from UMass and from the Towns.

Asst. Chief Stromgren described the request for radios. The portable radios had previously been replaced but now the need was for the mobile units. The existing ones are 15-20 year old Motorola units in the vehicles. Last year 3 of these crashed. New vehicles purchased include new units.

K. Appy asked if it makes more sense to replace all at once or to phase them in?

S. Braun asked why these radios were more expensive than the police radios requested (3,000 per radio versus \$4,800)?

Asst. Chief Stromgren said he didn't know the details of the police radios but the fire department radios were "dual head" so they were more expensive and required more cable to install.

Chief Nelson explained the request for the SCBA Fit Tester. Each mask for fire, public works, APD and waster water must be tested once a year. Right now 21 communities share the tester, which is owned by the Hampshire County Fire Department. The Mass Fire Academy requires that equipment be verified within 6 months as "fit tested" which increases the need for testing and the urgency of access to the tester.

Asst. Chief McKay said that protective gear is now a yearly expenditure but some years it is not all used. He then explained the request for IV Infusion Pumps, which are needed to respond to an unfunded state mandate. The new requirements for increasing blood pressure in medical emergencies call for Noraephremine (sp?) which needs a more accurate system to administer the drug. It can be used for other drugs as well such as saline. The AFD is requesting 7 pumps for its vehicles.

The AFD is also requesting a new van for the student firefighters. C. Kruger asked if they had considered leasing. Asst. Chief Stromgren said he had been told the town wouldn't lease vehicles. D. Slaughter said the town doe lease but it pushes the expense out to other years and can also add to the cost.

Chief Nelson spoke about the need for a new fire station. He said a new committee has been formed to work on the Fire Station and the DPW buildings. The Fire Station could go in the spot now occupied by DPW. He explained how they have been limited in purchasing vehicles because they have to fit in the current station and there are only inches to spare between the vehicles and the bays.

K. Appy said she hope the larger community could understand the current conditions at the Central Fire Station regarding living conditions and the equipment limitations, etc.

The next JCPC meeting is scheduled for March 3 to review requests from the Schools and Municipal Facilities.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.